

The WITNESS: I could not give you any accurate estimate at the moment, but it frequently develops that land is tied up pending settlement of an estate. The Indian agent is not trained in the law, and I am satisfied that we should have a man who had such training in order to deal with inheritances in the province of British Columbia and in other ways, at least, to deal with wills, and so on.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. Suppose an Indian wants to transfer his land and the agent defers, and just puts him off and keeps on putting him off; and the Indian has no one to go to. What recourse has the Indian in British Columbia?—A. He would come to the commissioner for Indian Affairs.

Q. And if the commissioner is in Vancouver and the Indian is up to the Cariboo, then what?—A. He makes his complaint in writing and the commissioner immediately gets in touch with the local Indian agent and asks for the reasons why the matter has not been submitted as requested by the Indian.

Q. The way it works out then: the poor Indian does not know whom to go to to get his letter written, and he does not know the commissioner, in nine cases out of ten. That is another reason why the chief executives should frequently visit Indian villages and reserves. It is an extremely important point.

*By Mr. Charlton:*

Q. Before we leave this topic of reserves and Indian lands, there was a point brought up the other day regarding the Indian woman marrying a white man and leaving the reserve. Take, for instance, the case of an Indian woman who was the only daughter of a man holding possession of land in the reserve. Suppose her husband dies. Does she have the right to go back on the Indian reserve on the land that was previously owned by her father?—A. I should say that an Indian woman who marries a white man becomes a white woman, under the law; and if her husband dies, she is still white. Her status is still white, and she is a responsibility of the province; of British Columbia, in our case. If she, for instance, found that she was somewhat ostracized by her neighbours and felt that she would like to return to her reserve, permission would have to be secured from the department to permit her to do that; but still she would remain a charge on the province, not on the dominion government.

*By Hon. Mr. Stirling:*

Q. What about where she inherited land?—A. If she inherited land, the Indian Act provides for that. The interest is eventually extinguished.

*By Mr. Charlton:*

Q. Then the money would be returned to her?—A. She would get the proceeds of the sale. But the band purchased that land, as I understand it.

Q. Yes. In the case of Ontario, where there are treaty Indians, does a woman have the right, if she leaves the reserve and marries a white man, to collect her payments of the treaty money?—A. Well—

Mr. HOEY: That matter will be brought up later on by Mr. Brown, who is a lawyer. These are legal matters that we are discussing, gentlemen. She can commute that or she can get her treaty payments paid regularly. She also gets her share of the band's funds. He will explain that.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Mr. Chairman, I am a little bit concerned, but I am afraid I interrupted Mr. Lickers. Did he have any another question?